

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 23, 2003 LB 68, 106

**SPEAKER BROMM:** LB 68 does advance. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** Mr. President, LB 106, introduced by Senator Beutler. (Read title.) Introduced on January 9, referred to Education, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Beutler for opening.

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** Senator Bromm, thank you. I think this bill can best be characterized as a clarification bill. It makes two clarifications with regard to the community college involvement in the Minority Scholarship Program. And before those of you who have been here before, and freshmen who may have heard of some of our scholarship debates, before you all tense up, let me make clear that this is not about SAP or any of the three major scholarship programs, which in the last couple of years have been the subject of some fairly intense debate with regard to the distribution of money as between private and public institutions. This is a separate and much smaller scholarship program that is directed towards minority students at public schools only, the University of Nebraska, the state colleges, and, as of a year or two ago, the community colleges. The whole program came about originally when a gentleman by the name of Rick Davis, who some of you may recall as an outstanding football player, died unfortunately very early. And he left a bequest of about \$50,000 for a minority scholarship program. That whole idea was picked up by his brother, Dr. Dick Davis, who is a successful businessperson, and a person who is very much interested in working for private donations to build up a minority scholarship program, the one that was originally dedicated to his brother. And in the early years, he worked closely with Senator Chambers on this program. And from that original \$50,000 bequest, it has built up into an endowment of about \$3.4 million, only the interest of which is used to fund scholarships for black students, Hispanic students, and Native American students. That's just kind of the short history of the program. This...getting back to the specific changes that are being suggested to you today, the community colleges